|  |
| --- |
| **Let’s discuss the elephant in the room: Indigenous research engagement and impact** |
| **Background/Objectives**  Documentation and measurement of compromised health and wellbeing are abundant and long-standing for Indigenous nations. But, a perennial question in Indigenous research discourse is whether the abundance of research conducted, purportedly to promote and improve health, is justified and benefits Indigenous people in ways that are meaningful and valued by them. Different research stakeholders have different conceptions of the value and nature of research, its conduct, what it should achieve and the kinds of impact expected. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the value of health research to Indigenous populations and to stimulate ways of thinking about potential resolutions to the lack of progress made in the Indigenous research impact debate.  **Methods**  A combination of systematic literature review findings, analysis of stakeholder forums and practice examples are used to demonstrate high-impact action-oriented participatory research methods with Indigenous Australian nations.  **Results**  To achieve research impact, we must account for the various standards of accountability (to whom), impact priorities (for whom), positive and negative impacts, and biases that operate in research planning, monitoring, evaluation and measurement and ensure that these are embedded in a co-designed research for impact framework.  **Discussion**  As a point of departure to improving research impact and reaching mutually beneficial outcomes for researchers and partners in Indigenous health research, we need to routinise the assessment of impact from outset of research as one of the standards toward which we work. The introduction of Engagement and Impact as additions to the Excellence in Research for Australia quality measures from 2018 means that we have the perfect opportunity to influence research business as usual. But the challenge is to engage with major Australian research funding agencies to ensure consistent alignment and approaches across research users, communities, and funders in evaluating impact.  **Keywords**  Aboriginal; Health; Indigenous; Evaluation; Research impact. |